

PEPTIC ULCER—Clinical Aspects, Diagnosis, Management. Editor, David J. Sandweiss, M.D., Associate Attending Physician, Division of Internal Medicine, Harper Hospital, Detroit, Mich. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1951. 790 pages, 164 figures. \$15.00.

This book has been assembled by a board of editors representing the American Gastroenterological Association. Seventy-seven specialists have contributed to produce a comprehensive and yet comparatively concise handbook on peptic ulcer.

Some 64 chapters make up the eight main sections which include: (1) Anatomy and Physiology of the Upper Gastrointestinal Tract. (2) Pathogenesis and Etiology of Peptic Ulcer. (3) Diagnosis and Differential Diagnosis of Uncomplicated Gastroduodenal Ulcer. (4) Medical Treatment of Uncomplicated Gastroduodenal Ulcer. (5) Surgical Treatment of Gastroduodenal Ulcer. (6) Peptic Ulcer of the Young and Aged. (7) Peptic Ulcer Other than Gastroduodenal Ulcer. (8) Complications of Gastroduodenal Ulcer.

Although all phases of peptic ulcer are considered the greatest emphasis is given the clinical aspect, with particular accent on treatment. Various facets of this problem are discussed in detail and with due care.

The foreword states that the Governing Board of the American Gastroenterological Association "thought that a crystallization of current ideas on diagnosis and management was greatly needed by the medical profession—gastroenterologists and surgeons, as well as roentgenologists, internists and general practitioners . . . (and) should serve a highly useful purpose."

The reviewer agrees. The editor and his staff have succeeded admirably in their efforts. And students of peptic ulcer for years to come may well consider this volume a landmark for orientation about the disease as well as an excellent reference.

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TEXTBOOK OF MEDICINE, A. Edited by E. Noble Chamberlain, M.D., M.Sc., F.R.C.P., Senior Lecturer in Medicine, University of Liverpool. 266 illustrations. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1951. 962 pages. \$10.00.

The advent of a new one-volume textbook of medicine to the already well-stocked shelves of the library calls for an explanation of its need and purpose. The editor writes: "The contributors to this book are disturbed by the increasing factual knowledge which is expected of the medical student in his final examinations. The student is not commonly in a position to judge of the relative importance of the various facets of this knowledge, and the writers have endeavored to make some selection for him."

The results of their labors have produced a volume refreshingly modest in size and interestingly written. Brevity, unfortunately, is too often pursued to its limit, which results in uninformative generalities and, at times, inaccuracy in even some of the commoner diseases. The illustrations are uniformly excellent and well used.

As is the case with a number of other current English texts, the local reader will be surprised at the frequency with which sulfathiazole is recommended as the treatment of choice in various infections; and at the preference for the arsenic-bismuth-iodine treatment of syphilis.

The reviewer fears that the American medical public will get too little from this book: It contains insufficient information and discussion for the practitioner to employ it as a reference. It may be of possible use to an instructor giving an elementary course (especially because of the use of the illustrations). But our third and fourth year students and interns would be made most unhappy if they had to fall back on such a volume for their textbook of medicine.

SURGICAL GYNECOLOGY—Including Important Obstetric Operations. J. P. Greenhill, M.D., Professor of Gynecology, Cook County Graduate School of Medicine. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., 1952. 350 pages. \$8.50.

Greenhill says in the introduction to his book that it was prepared for young gynecologists, general surgeons and general practitioners who perform operations and that he has tried to show, in as simple a way as possible, how to carry out "nearly all" the gynecologic operations which are being done today. Evidently, this is wishful thinking and the direct antithesis to sound training principles. Yet further on he says that regardless of how skilful a man's surgical technique might be, this does not qualify him as a gynecologic surgeon. One may wonder, therefore, why Greenhill ever undertook to bring out a book which has little more merit than being an oversimplified picture book of equally oversimplified surgical procedures. He calls it a handbook but he fails to discuss what by most surgeons is considered the principal guide to performing operations and that is the reason for performing them. Some sixty pages are devoted to pre- and postoperative care. This, in substance, again is an oversimplification of the standard procedures to be found in any good textbook on general surgery. The illustrated portion of the book presents gynecologic and allied operative procedures again in an oversimple manner in the form of line drawings, including a number of obsolete procedures, albeit the drawings in general will appear clear to the experienced surgeon or gynecologist. Your reviewer credits the author with good intentions but he is not so certain that the result merits praise. It certainly is not a guide to be used by the inexperienced in the hope that one look at these oversimplified line drawings is sufficient to entitle him to undertake what may prove a difficult and complicated surgical operation. The experienced operator hardly will want to spend eight and a half dollars on a book which in no way can measure up to sound surgical texts which cost little more.

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FOUNDATIONS OF NEUROPSYCHIATRY—Fifth Edition. Stanley Cobb, A.B., M.D., Bullard Professor of Neuropathology, Harvard Medical School. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1952. 287 pages, \$3.00.

This is the fifth revised and enlarged edition of what was first known as "A Preface to Nervous Disease." The present volume as compared with the fourth edition, written in 1948, is much larger. Starting with Chapter 1, which is entirely new, the author tells us that every chapter, with the exception of Chapter 8 on "Cerebral Spinal Fluid," has had considerable revision or has been completely rewritten.

Although in general the term "neuropsychiatry" is being done away with, Cobb still clings to it and insists that the brain is the organ of mind, that psychology is the study of the mind, and psychiatry the study of the abnormal mind. He feels that a knowledge of neurology and neuropathology is basic to a study of psychiatry.

Most of the material in the book is neuroanatomy and neurophysiology. There are two chapters on neuropathology, one on epilepsy, and the two last, Chapters 13 and 14, are "Psychological Concepts in Medicine" and "Psychopathological Reactions." It will thus be seen that the book is principally devoted to what the author calls "the simpler workings of the Central Nervous System," and he adds "In truth, little more than these simple mechanisms is thoroughly understood and even some of these are still controversial."

The book accomplishes the author's purpose of stating some of this basic neurological material in a simple, lucid and correct manner. It can be recommended without reservation for the purpose for which it is designed.